

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, honoured guests!

On behalf of the EU funded INOGATE project, I would like to thank for the invitation to this important and well established annual event dedicated to sustainable energy in Moldova.

Moldova, as an EU associated state, adheres to EU policies in the energy field, and has already taken important steps to promote energy efficiency and renewable energies, like the creation of the Energy Efficiency Agency of Moldova, the Energy Efficiency Fund and the approval of the National Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Action Plans.

INOGATE has been working with the Ministry of Economy of Moldova and with the Energy Efficiency Agency, in support of the implementation of these policies.

I am very pleased to participate in today's Eco-Energetica Award Ceremony and would like to share with you an inspiring announcement.

In March 2016, Moldova will have its first Sustainable Energy Information Centre.

This will not just be a room with a few posters and a receptionist.

It will be a living, inter-active, informative and exciting hub of activities that will demonstrate to the citizens of Moldova the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy for their daily lives and empower them to put these ideas into practice.

This Centre will contribute to changing the attitude of citizens towards a more conscious use of energy at home, at work and in many situations of daily life. It will empower them to make the right purchasing decisions, to make their homes energy efficient and to control their energy use and expenditures. It will contribute to change Moldova into an energy efficient, modern country.

Why are we announcing this Centre now?

Such an inter-active centre, where all citizens can learn about sustainable energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy takes a little planning.

This announcement is a springboard for the many actions that must be put in place to make the planned Centre a living, learning environment.

And the Eco-Energetica Awards are the perfect gathering for such an announcement.

The role of INOGATE

The EU-funded programme, INOGATE, is providing technical and financial assistance to the development and implementation of this new centre.

As part of a wider strategy to promote awareness in energy efficiency and renewable energy in the Eastern Partnership countries, the main goal is to reduce Moldova's energy expenditure, to improve security of supply and to protect the environment.

INOGATE's international and national experts are working in partnership with the host of the Centre, the Moldovan Agency for Energy Efficiency and with our NGO partner, the Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables. The Ministry of Economy of Moldova is taking an active interest in the establishment of the Centre.

This Centre will be a framework for INOGATE to:

- Provide independent, authoritative information on energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Influence and advise target groups and decision makers
- Build capacity among stakeholders to develop and implement sustainable energy projects

INOGATE's input includes assistance in developing a structured approach to awareness raising, assisting in the development of a concept, strategy and action plan for the Centre and assisting in the development and provision of information materials and exhibits. INOGATE is also providing training for the centre's personnel and planning the implementation of the first three years of its operation.

The official launch of the Centre today will set in motion the organisation of the many activities that the Centre will offer: it will invite manufacturers, suppliers, contractors and all those involved in supporting the improvement of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy, to work with us to provide information on energy efficient products and materials in many forms.

Who will visit this new Sustainable Energy Information Centre and what kind of activities are envisaged?

Once the Centre is opened in the spring of 2016, it will become a hub for seminars and roundtables attracting visitors from every walk of life.

Householders as energy users will be particularly welcomed as energy for heating, cooking, lighting and many other uses is crucial for their daily lives, and energy bills are a burden for many households, in particular low-income households.

Seminars and roundtables with journalists, suppliers, teachers and students and energy managers will be organised and staff for the operation of the Centre will be recruited.

Visitors will be able to see how energy efficient appliances, lighting and heating systems and building materials and elements will affect their daily lives in enabling them to control and reduce their energy use. The Centre will also act as a hub for connecting and making best use of all initiatives carried out by civil society, educational institutions and industry, which share the same scope.

The Centre will also serve as a venue for meetings of various stakeholders who wish to discuss their role within the sustainable energy conversation, either among themselves, or with the general Moldovan public.

"Energy efficiency" and "renewable energy" are the key to a more sustainable energy future world-wide. In an open economy, the experience of other countries, new technologies and ideas are crossing borders, and Moldova will be part of this global process. The Centre will assure that society as a whole can benefit from these developments.

I invite you all to share your ideas and contribute to this first Sustainable Energy Information Centre in Moldova and to be a welcome visitor once it is opened in March 2016.

Thank you. **MULTSUMESK FRUMOS.**